THE
Free State
OF
NOLAND.

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OR,

The Frame and Conſtitution

OF

That *Happy, Noble, Powerful,* and *Glorious*

STATE.

In which all Sorts and Degrees of People find their Condition Better'd.

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NOLAND.

THIS Country is ſituate beyond the Line, being part of the great *Southern* Continent, or *Terra Auſtralis incognita*. Which Continent, tho it be little known to the reſt of the World, (by reaſon of the Miſts and Fogs, which lie almoſt continually before the Coaſt, and forbid our approaches to it); yet the People have found means to know the World well: being alſo well-skill'd in all the Arts and Learning of *Europe*. As for *Noland* in particular, it very much reſembles *England* both in Soil and Climate. Alſo, (tho it may ſeem incredible) they are of the ſame Religion, ſpeak the ſame *Engliſh* Language, and have the *Engliſh* Laws. And their Government (till of late years) was exactly conformable to the Monarchy of *England*. But the Royal Line wholly falling, they are now a *Free State*.

For when their Laſt King Dy'ed ſuddenly without Heirs, which alſo happen'd in an Interval of Parliaments; the *Peers* met with all ſpeed at their uſual Place: Giving no-

tice forwith to the *Members* of the laſt Houſe of *Commons*, to meet there likewiſe. And now their great Buſineſs was, to Chooſe a new King. And by the unanimous Concurrence of *Lords* and *Commons*, they Choſe a Man of the Higheſt Quality, who ſhall here be called *Ariſtæus*. He was a Perſon moſt accompliſh'd in every reſpect: And had been the Late Kings chief Miniſter and Favourite, to the great Satisfaction and Delight of the whole Kingdom. So that now they Elected him their King, without any difficulty.

But the Excellent *Ariſtæus* ſeriouſly excuſed himſelf, and would by no means accept the Crown. He adviſed them, rather to keep the Power in their own hands: And to ſettle themſelves in the Happy and Glorious Condition of a Free State. He told them, that both He and the Late King, (who was the beſt of Men, and a true Lover of his People) had long Conſider'd and Adviſed about ſuch a Government, and had digeſted it for them. A Government wherein all Sorts and Degrees of People ſhall find their Account, and feel their Condition better'd: Shall be enriched, advanc'd, and adorn'd with the Spoils of the Monarchy; and ſhall have thoſe Advantages ſhared amongſt them, which in a Monarchy are engroſs'd and ſwallowed up by one Man. Where the *Peers* will be in greater Splendor and Honour, where the Gentlemen will have a mighty Increaſe of Dignity, and where Trade and the Learned Profeſſions will have high Encouragement. Where alſo the meaner Sort, by their Right of Suffrage in Elections, will oblige the Great Ones (who are the Candidates) to treat them kindly, and without any appearance of Inſolence or Oppreſſion.

But he chiefly inſiſted upon the great ſtrength which this Government would give them, againſt Forraign Enemies.

mies. Making it plain to them, that the Nation would be infinitely ſtronger in a well order'd Free State, then under a Monarchy; eſpecially a mixt one. Telling them further, that this was no more then needful, in regard of the great Power of their Enemies. That the Neighbouring Idolaters (who were furiouſly bent to deſtroy the Chriſtians) were exceeding Potent: Eſpecially one over-grown abſolute Monarch, that was ready to devour all that part of the World. So that it greatly concern'd them, to provide for a Vigorous Oppoſition.

We find that Cardinal Marazin *had the ſame Sentiments with* Ariſtæus, *concerning the Powerfulneſs of a Free State. A Book of his Letters is Publiſh'd in* Engliſh: *Many of which Letters were Written, while he was engaged in the* Pyrænean *Treaty with* Don Lewis de Haro. *And in the Seventeenth Letter, and the* 135th. *Page of the Printed Book, there is this Paſſage.*

We ſpoke of the Engliſh Affairs ſeveral times: Agreeing, that the Republick of England eſtabliſhing it ſelf, 'twas a Power to be redoubted by all its Neighbours: Seeing without Exaggeration, it would be a Hundred times more formidable then that of their Kings.

This Letter is directed to Monſieur le Tellier, *who was one of the Miniſters then at* Paris. *And it bears Date the* 25th. *of* Auguſt, 1659. *At which time our Famous long Parliament was yet in being, but their continuance doubtful. The very thoughts of which Parliament, made* Mazarin *and all* France *to tremble.*

But

But to return to *Aristæus*: He desired the States Assembled to allow him six Months, for further Consideration and Consultation, towards the Compleating his Fabrick. Advising them withal; to commit the Administration in the mean time, to a Councel of *Lords* and *Commons*.

By the foregoing Reasons, and many more, the Excellent *Aristæus* prevail'd with the States; to follow his Advices, and comply with his Desires. And at the six Months end, he presented to them the Form of Government hereunder described. Which was by them approved and received, and under which they now live happy.

In the Framing whereof he observ'd these Rules.

FIrst, he would have his Form of Government to be an unexclusive Aristocracy: Or, an Aristocracy and Democracy mixt together. Which both He and the great *Aristotle* before him, whom He esteemed one of the Wisest of Men, judg'd to be the Height and Perfection of all Government.

Secondly, he would have his State to be Representative. That so it might be a firm, as well as a lofty Pyramid, whose Basis and Foundation is as large as the whole People. He consider'd, that this way was agreeable to the former Constitution of *Noland*: In which the Representers of the People bore a great part. And surely, every New Government should retain as much as may be of the Old. He consider'd also, that this is the only convenient way for a large Country. And without this way, either the whole Body of the People must Govern, and then the Government will be unweildy and tumultuous; as it fared with the *Athenians*, and afterwards with the *Romans*, especially when all *Italy* had Right of suffrage given them. Or else

Part

Part of the People muſt Govern, excluding the reſt: And then the Government will be weak, and affraid of its own Subjects; as it now fares with the *Venetians*. But the Noble State of *Achaia* was Repreſentative. Where a Soverain Councel was Compoſed of the Delegates of Divers Cities and Countries. And when they Conquer'd any People, all that they impoſed on them was only this, that they ſhould ſend their Deputies to the *Achaan* Councel. This was a State without Blemiſh and without Blame: Of all others the moſt Orderly, and of the greateſt Probity and Virtue. Alſo from ſmall Beginnings, they ſoon became very conſiderable, and their Condition was ſtill growing and flouriſhing. But they were overwhelm'd by the Mighty Power of the *Romans*; as a Man of the beſt Conſtitution may be torn in pieces by a Lion. Tho even the *Romans* might have found them a hard Match, if all *Greece* had been United under the *Achaan* Common-wealth. And this might very probably have come to paſs, had it not been for the perverſe humour of the *Athenians* and *Spartans*: Who having ſingly been domineering Republicks, thought it now ſcorn to joyn with others. Tho it were the only means they had left, to avoid the Slavery and Ruin that was coming viſibly upon them.

The moſt Excellent Ariſtæus *was quickly and fully ſatisfied, to have his State Repreſentative; that is Govern'd by a Soverain Councel, Compoſed of the Repreſentatives of the People. But he was in ſome doubt, whether theſe Repreſentatives ſhould be temporary, and conſequently in rotation; or ſhould be permanent and for Life. He ſaw that each way was convenient in ſome reſpects, and inconvenient in others. The one way ſeem'd too Democratical, the other ſeem'd too Ariſtocratical. He thereupon reſolved, to comply exactly in this matter with his firſt*

Rul-

Rule, and to mix Democracy and Ariſtocracy together: And therefore,

Thirdly, he would have part of the Repreſentatives to be Temporary and in rotation, and part to be Conſtant and Permanent. Part muſt be Temporary, that the Perſons deputing (and theſe are the main Body of the People) may be in continual uſe and enjoyment of this pleaſing Power: And that the Perſons deputed may have a freſh ſenſe of their Duty to thoſe that intruſt them, and may more modeſtly uſe an Authority which they muſt ſhortly lay down. Alſo the more Men will in this way have hopes to get in, (and Hope is the great refreſhment of the Soul, and keeps alive the better part of Mankind); which Men will by this means have the perpetual Exerciſe of an honourable and honeſt Ambition: And will conſequently ſo behave themſelves, as to be thought worthy of the Peoples choice. Alſo in this way there will be a due Viciſſitude of Commanding and Obeying: which thing is much to be regarded in a Free State. On the other ſide, part of the Repreſentatives muſt be permanent: That Perſons of Merit, and above the Common Rate of People, and that have given ſufficient tryal of themſelves, may have a Port which they at laſt may reſt in. Exempted from the irkſome indecency of being always Candidates, and from the bitterneſs of Repulſes: And ſettled in a more elevated Station, from whence they may direct their Thoughts and Hopes yet higher. A Community that hath nothing fixt and ſtable, but is all in rotation, is like a Windmill without a Poſt. And there was never any ſuch in the World. The thing would be intolerable even in an ordinary Coporation, much more in a Soverain State: Where there is no Superiour to put

put things in order, which the Error of the Conſtitution hath Diſcompoſed. Moreover tho ſome continue for Life, yet even theſe places lye fairly open to Peoples Hopes and Endeavours: Since the Dead Vacancies muſt be continually ſupplied by New Elections.

Fourthly, tho the State in the main be Repreſentative, yet ſome part of it, and ſome Members of the Soverain Councel may be Hereditary. Who being no great Number in Compariſon of the Repreſentatives, the Government will not by this means be Excluſive. As it is in *Venice*, where they are all Hereditary. The Legiſlator did find, that this Hereditary Order was here neceſſary, in reſpect of the *Peers*. Who muſt (as all others) be Gainers and not Loſers by the change of Government, and therefore they are to continue Hereditary as they were before. With this Advantage; That whereas they were formerly *Peers* of the Realm, under the Kings over-ſhadowing and over-whelming Greatneſs; they will now be *Peers* of a Free State, and have nothing to top them, or, drop upon them. So that their Condition will be more Glorious then ever. Thoſe Men are truly great, then whom there is none greater. Moreover ſome ſuch Proviſion muſt be made for that Order of leſſer Hereditary Nobility, (that is *Baronets*) Inſtituted by one of their Late Kings, in imitation of *England*.

Fifthly the number of the Repreſentatives muſt be proportionate to the Eſtates, of thoſe that chooſe or ſend them; As the ſaid Eſtates are Aſſeſſed in Publick Taxes. That ſo all Perſons and all Places may have a ſhare in the Power, according to their part of the Burden. Which is a way without deceit, and the moſt equal of all other. It were Impudence in any Men to demand more. What the *Achæans* did herein, we do not find. But it plainly appears,

that the *Asian Greeks* did observe this Rule. For *Strabo* tells us, among other Examples, that in the *Lycian* Republick there were three and twenty Cities or lesser Communities; whereof some had three Votes, some two, some one. And that they pay'd Taxes in the same Proportion. This is the way that *De Wit* aim'd at in *Holland*: That is, to have a Soverain Councel; and the Provinces and Cities to send their number of Deputies, according to their Proportion of Taxes. And this is the way that our Long Parliament followed, in their accurate Frame of an equal Representative. Which *Cromwell* found upon their Table, when he dissolv'd them with Violence; and which he observ'd in his first Parliament. (But he soon found that such a Parliament had too great a National Interest.) The most Excellent *Britæus* thought it expedient to establish the like Order in the State of *Noland*. So that all Real Estates, (as Lands, Houses, and the like) should Pay Taxes and have Suffrages, according to the Rent which they do, or may yield. And that Estates Personal should be regarded as they are Equivalent to Land.

Sixthly, as the whole State is a Grand Corporation, so the Constituting Parts of it (that is, the Counties and Hundreds) must be Corporations likewise; having a neer Analogy to the Great one. I speak not here of the Provinces, because they are only Corporations to some Intents: Whereas the other are perfect ones. In these the People have the Government among themselves: With Laws and Orders of their own making, and Magistrates of their own choosing. Which is the Summ of Civil Liberty. And they have the Administration of the Publick Law, in convenient measure, among themselves also: Without which a Corporation is not compleat. The Excellent Legislator held it unreasonable, that while the whole was free, the Parts should

ſhould be in Servitude: And that the Gentlemen and Yeomen ſhould not have the ſame Priviledges in the Counties and in the Hundreds, which the Tradeſmen have in the Cities and Towns. He therefore deſired ſo to Order Matters, that all ſorts of People might taſte the ſweetneſs of Living in Communities: So that while ſome are at the Helm in the greater Veſſels, others might be as well pleaſed to ſteer the leſſer, or at leaſt to make ſome Figure in them. Here therefore are leſſer Communities within the greater; And ſubordinate to them: That is, the Counties to the Grand Councel of the Nation, and the Hundreds to the Counties.

Seventhly, in all theſe Corporations or Communities, there muſt be a greater or Popular Councel, and a leſſer Councel or Senate. The greater Councel muſt have the Legiſlative Power of the Place: The leſſer (which is choſen by and out of the greater, and is ſtill a part of it) muſt have the Executive. The greater doth reſolve and determine, but without Debate: The leſſer doth debate, and prepare, and propoſe. All Elections of Magiſtrates and Officers muſt be made by the Greater Councels. And all Elections muſt be perform'd by private ſuffrage, which is the true Conſerver of Liberty. As for the having two Councels, we find it was the way of the Antient *Germans*: Of which *Tacitus* ſaith thus. *De minoribus rebus Principes conſultant, de majoribus omnes: ita tamen, ut ea quoq; quorum penes Plebem arbitrium eſt, apud Principes prætractentur.* The laſt word is commonly Printed, *pertractentur*: But the other is clearer and better. The whole runs thus in *Engliſh*.

The ſmaller things are handled by the chiefs (or Senate); the greater by All, (or by the whole People Aſſembled in Councel). Yet ſo, as that even thoſe things that are brought to the People (or Popular Councel), muſt be firſt debated (or throughly debated) by the Chiefs.

This Notion of two Councels hath been ſtumbled upon by others. But it is beſt made out by a late *Engliſh* Author, who hath left us the Modell of a Common-wealth. But his Modell is meerly Democratical: A Levelling ſordid Democracy. For he chiefly aims at Equality, which in plain *Engliſh* is Levelling. However *Ariſtæus* and that Author agree, that there ought to be two Councels. Which thing is alſo found in our *Engliſh* Corporations, where they have Common Councels and Courts of Aldermen. But theſe Aldermen are uſually all for Life, and the Common Councels are all annual. If part of the Aldermen were annual, biennial, or triennial, and part of the Common Councel men were for Life; they would be to *Ariſtæus* his mind.

Eightly, the Legiſlator laid it down for a Rule; That all Publick Offices, Employments, and Charges, (from the higheſt to the loweſt), ſhould be made Beneficial and Deſirable. And that their Number ſhould not be ſparing. [In *Venice* they are almoſt without Number.] That Men of every Condition may always have ſomething in chaſe, may have Marks to aim at, and Rewards before them (according to their degree) of their Ingenuity, Induſtry, Honeſty, and fair Carriage. And that conſequently they may ſo behave themſelves, as to be thought fit for theſe Places, and worthy of them. Which will infinitely promote the Induſtry, exalt the Genius, and refine the Manners of the Nation. It is confeſs'd, that the maintaining theſe Officers coſt ſome Money. But the Excellent *Ariſtæus* will People to underſtand, that they muſt be content to be at ſome Charge, to maintain their Glorious Liberty in due manner. Moreover when the Charge

Charge of a Kings Court is taken off, there may much of this kind be done with Eaſe. But ſuppoſe ſome Money muſt be advanced: Yet it returns both ſoon and ſure. People will have it back, by partaking of thoſe Offices which it is given to maintain. It will be like the putting Money into a Lottery: But with this difference; that whereas there the Benefits come by chance, here they come according to each Man's Induſtry and Merit. Wherefore the Legiſlator thought it requiſite, that a ſufficient and ſure Fund ſhould be ſettled, for maintaining theſe Officers in the firſt place: And the Over-plus (if any be) to go toward the other Charges of the Government.

Ninthly, as he would have plenty of Beneficial Places, ſo on the other ſide he would have their Profits to be moderate. And moderate Preferments may be as acceptable in a Free State, as great ones under Kingſhip. For Men will cheerfully ſerve in a Government whereof themſelves are part, upon much eaſier and lower terms; then where they have no Intereſt, and are meer Hirelings. Thus in a Grand Company of Merchants, the chief of that Company, (being choſen Directors, or Committees) will undergo great Labour for the general Good, and be content with ſmall Gratifications. But the Servants of that Company muſt be well paid. For theſe are but Servants, while the others are Maſters. Which is the difference between the Officers in a Free State, and thoſe in a Kingdom. In a State they are Maſters of the reſt, in a Kingdom they are one Mans Servants. And whereas in a Kingdom they intend the Publick Buſineſs, as another Mans Buſineſs; in a State they intend it as their own. Here it may be added, that the Preferments which Men obtain by Popular Suffrage, and by the Judgment and Good will of many,

many, have a much better Reliſh; then what is thrown to them, as a bone to a Spaniel, at the Will and Pleaſure of one Man, Who perhaps doth not know, whether the Men be white or black: But the places were gotten, by creeping and crouching to a Favourite. Moreover the Legiſlator would not have his Officers to live in Luxury and Riot, and at high Expence; but rather to be an Example of Frugality. Which Vertue doth very much conduce to the well being of a State.

Tenthly, the Profit of Offices muſt bear Proportion to the Places they regard, or to which they belong. It being againſt reaſon, that He that governs a ſmall Hundred, or County, or City; ſhould have equal Advantages with thoſe that govern great ones. Moreover in the leſſer Places the Candidates are fewer, and the Offices come to them eaſier and oftener. They are alſo diſcharged with leſs Labour.

In the Eleventh place, the Legiſlator made it his Rule, and took great Care, that a due and fair regard be had to Riches. He well conſidering; that Wealth is a very turbulent thing, and the occaſion of great diſorders, when it hath not Authority and Preferments anſwerable. But in truth the very Frame of the Government doth ſufficiently provide for Rich Men. For in an Ariſtocracy that is not excluſive, and where Dignities are conferr'd by Popular ſuffrage, Men of Eſtates muſt riſe: there is no keeping them down. And therefore we ſee in our *Engliſh* Corporations (where generally the Government is of this kind) thoſe that have Wealth do ſeldom fail, to have all the Dignities the Place affords. In the *Roman* State, Honours did attend upon Riches, as it were of Courſe and Right. He that had *Cenſus Equeſtris*, or a Knightly Eſtate, might claim to be of the Rank of the Knights or Equites, and in

like

like manner there was *Cenſus Senatorius*. [The Knightly Eſtate was about two Thouſand Pound of our Money, and the *Senatorian* was thrice as much.] Our Legiſlator did not go ſo far. But this he did do. He did provide, that in caſe a Man of Eſtate cannot riſe by ſuffrage, which yet doth ſeldom happen; or in caſe (which may more frequently come to paſs) he cannot bear the Delays and Gradations which ordinary People undergo; or in caſe he will not be beholden; in theſe or the like caſes, he may make ſhort and ſure work with his Money. Very Honourable Ranks and Degrees (but ſuch as require not Perſonal Abilities) being thus attainable. And this way doth procure and advance great Summs for the Publick Service. Which way is alſo pactis'd in the Wiſe State of *Venice*.

Twelfthly, the moſt Excellent *Ariſtæus* did alſo take care and lay it down for a Rule, that Titles of Honour ſhould be Liberally beſtowed. For he did take notice, that in *England* we are too ſparing in this kind. The Title of Lord, or that which is equivalent, is given in other Countries to all that are above the Condition of the Vulgar. But how few have it here in *England*? Many a Gentleman in *England* is called plain Maſter ſuch a one, that hath a better Eſtate then moſt Forrain *Counts* and *Marqueſſes*. There was the ſame defect under Monarchy, in *Noland*. But our Legiſlator reſolv'd to have this matter now mended: And in his new form of Goverment, he would have (beſide other Dignities) ſome hundreds of Earls, and twice as many Barons, with ſome Thouſands of Knights. [Who nevertheleſs would generally, in point of Fortune, far exceed that which was required of the *Roman* Knights and Senators.] Alſo he thought fit, that a great many Officers and Magiſtrates, ſhould have the Title of Lord given

given them. Why ſhould a State (thought He) be niggardly, in that which coſts them nothing? And withal he did judge it not inconvenient, that thoſe things ſhould be made more common, which were eſteem'd ſuch Jewels under Kingſhip.

Theſe were the Legiſlators Rules and Grounds, the Modell it ſelf follows.

AS much of it as is here ſet down, comes under theſe Heads,

I. Pariſhes. II. Hundreds. III. Counties. IV. Free Cities and Boroughs. V. Provinces and Provincial Courts. VI. The Grand Councel. VII. The Grand Senate, or Parliament. VIII. The Kingdoms of Calydon and Juvern, with the Colonies.

I. Pariſhes.

1. EVery Pariſh hath a Councell or *Moot*, choſen annually by the Inhabitants: Every Houſe-keeper that Pays Taxes having a Vote. Their number is according to the yearly Value of the Pariſh, as the ſame is aſſeſſed in Publick Taxes: That is, one Man for every Fifty Pound a Year. So that if the Eſtates of the Pariſh amount to Fourteen Hundred Pound yearly, the Pariſh *Moot* is Twenty Eight.

2. In theſe Aſſeſſments, Perſonal Eſtates are reckon'd as the Quantity of Land they will purchaſe. So that where Land is at twenty Years purchaſe, a Hundred Pound, (or the Value of it in Stock or Goods) is reckon'd as Five Pound a Year.

3. In

3. In regard of Caſualties and Decays, Houſes are aſſeſſed at a third part leſs, than the Rent they do or may yield.

Every five Years there is a new Aſſeſſment throughout the whole State: According to which both the Power and the Burdens are diſtributed.

4. Half of the Pariſh *Moot*, that is, the half that were firſt choſen, are the Veſtry of the Pariſh; and have the Governance and Diſpoſal of all Parochial Affairs. Only in Elections, and laying of Taxes, the whole *Moot* muſt joyn.

5. Over and above the Perſons thus annually choſen, all the Members for Life in the Aſſembly of the Hundred, are likewiſe conſtant Members of the *Moot* and Veſtry in the Pariſhes where they dwell.

6. This *Moot* chuſeth Deputies to repreſent the Pariſh in the Aſſembly of the Hundred: That is, one Deputy for every two Hundred Pound a Year, which the Pariſh is in Value. The Service of theſe Deputies is Triennial: A third Part (or as near it as may be) going off yearly, and as many being new choſen in their places; who may either be other Men, or the ſame Men again. If therefore the Pariſh be aſſeſs'd at fourteen hundred Pound a Year, theſe Deputies are Seven: Whereof two go off one year, two another year, and three the third year.

7. If there be a Fraction, (as 'tis hardly poſſible but there will) that is, if a Sum remain, which will not reach an entire Repreſentative; in this Caſe the Pariſh may joyn with one or more Pariſhes of the ſame Hundred, and they may lay their Fractions together to make up two Hundred Pound a year; Electing a Deputy upon

on that account by turn, or by lot, or otherwiſe as they can agree. Thus if two Pariſhes be worth fifteen hundred Pound each, they have each of them Seven Deputies, and one Deputy between them.

8. In the Election of Pariſh Officers, it being a thing of ſmall moment, the *Moots* proceed in what way they pleaſe. But the Election of the Deputies for the Hundred, ſince it hath an Influence upon the whole Government, muſt be perform'd by private ſuffrages: and ſo muſt all higher Elections.

9. The Pariſhes which formerly were very unequal, are now brought ſo far towards an Equality, that few of them are under a Thouſand Pound a year, or above two Thouſand. And between ten and twenty ſuch Pariſhes make a *Hundred*.

II. Hundreds.

10. A *Hundred* (or Precinct, or Barony) is a Corporation, or a ſmall Republick; govern'd by a Warden, two Aſſociates, Bench and Aſſembly.

11. To the Aſſembly the Pariſhes ſend their Deputies in the Proportions before expreſſed. So that if the whole *Hundred* or *Precinct* be worth twenty thouſand Pound a year (and they are generally about that Value); there will be a hundred of theſe Deputies.

12. Beſide theſe Deputies, who (as hath been ſaid) are in Triennial Rotation, there are other Aſſemblymen for Life: who have the Title and Dignity of Eſquires. Their Number is half the Number of the Deputies; ſo that if the Deputies be a Hundred, the Squires are Fifty. And the whole Aſſembly is a Hundred and Fifty.

13. The

13. The places of the Squires, or ſtanding Aſſembly-men, as they become vacant by Death, are ſupplied the one half of them by Election of the whole Aſſembly; but the other half are ſold by the *Bench* or *Senate*, to thoſe that will give moſt to the publick Uſes of the *Hundred*. So that every other Vacancy is ſupplied by Sale. The Perſon being approved by the Aſſembly.

Theſe publick Uſes are, the building of Bridges, Churches, Hoſpitals, and other publick Edifices; the enlarging and making good their Highways, and ſuch other things as the Aſſembly orders: Who herein have a particular regard to the Convenience and Ornament of their own Town. This Town is a Market-Town, Seated commodiouſly for the Meetings and Buſineſs of the Hundred.

14. Out of the Squires, but by the whole Aſſembly, is choſen the Bench: Which is a Senate or Court of Aldermen for the Hundred, having all the Authorities proper for ſuch a Senate. Their Number is a fifth part of the Number of the Deputies, or one Man for every Thouſand Pound a year, which the *Hundred* is in Value. So that if the aſſeſs'd yearly Value of the *Hundred* be twenty Thouſand Pound, and the Deputies be a hundred in Number, the *Bench* conſiſts of twenty.

The Aſſembly hath the Legiſlative Power of the Place, ſuch as it is: The Bench or Senate hath the Executive. The Bench is to debate and propoſe; and the Aſſembly (of which the Bench is part) is to reſolve, and barely by their Votes to affirm or deny what is propoſed to them. Their By Laws and Orders ſtand good, till they are diſallowed by higher Powers.

15. The full moiety of the Benchers is for Life, the other moiety is Triennial. Thus if the Bench conſiſts of twenty, ten of them are for Life, and ten Triennial: A third part of the laſt ten going off, and being new choſen yearly. Who may be the ſame, or others.

16. Every Hundred hath a Warden and his two Aſſociates, who are the Chief Magiſtrates of the Corporation. They are Triennial, one of them going off every Year. The Warden is choſen by the Shire Councel; the Aſſociates, and all other Officers, are choſen by the Aſſembly of the *Hundred*.

Thoſe other Officers are, a Recorder, a Marſhal in the nature of a Sheriff; one or more Head-Surveyors of the Highways of the Hundred, Head Overſeers of the Poor, the Steward of the Court of Conſcience, a Chamberlain, or Receiver, &c.

The Legiſlator did long doubt, whether the Hundreds ſhould not chooſe their Warden, as well as their other Magiſtrates and Officers. For plainly their Liberty would be more compleat, if all their Magiſtrates were Elected by Themſelves, and none were impoſed. And ſince the Cities and Towns Corporate have this Privilege; it ſeem'd reaſonable to him, that his Country Corporations ſhould have the ſame. On the other ſide he did conſider, that theſe Wardens being choſen out of the whole County, will probably be abler Men, and likewiſe more impartial, then if they were to be of the ſame Hundred. So that Juſtice will be better Adminiſter'd. And the while the chief Gentlemen of the County, that are Men of Probity and Parts, will have continual and handſome Preferments and Employments, even in the Country and near their own homes. Moreover the Legiſlator would not have the Parts of his Republick to be too diſtinct and ſeparate. It being the

That

Judgment of Ariſtotle, *whom he did much reverence: That to make a State firm and durable, the People muſt be well mingled. The Parts therefore ſhould have a dependance upon their Whole, and be link'd to one another. As for Cities and Towns Corporate, they differ much from the Hundreds. They are like* Iſlands, *ſever'd from other Places: And in their Nature muſt have their Government more diſtinct, and more entirely within themſelves. But Hundreds are upon the ſame Continent (as it were) with the other Hundreds of the County: And they are all of a piece. And 'tis beſt they ſhould be intermixt and interwear'd, and conſequently that the Men of one Hundred ſhould bear Office in another. Wherefore the chief Magiſtrate of each Hundred is appointed by the Shire-Council, as hath been ſaid: And ſo the chief Magiſtrates of each County, (as ſhall be ſaid hereafter) is appointed by the Grand Council of the Nation. A County in this reſpect doth much reſemble the* Iſland *of* Corſica. *Which* Iſland *is under the* Genoeſes, *and about the bigneſs of a large* Engliſh *County. The People here are Govern'd by a Council of their own chuſing; only a Reſident (who is but* Primus in Ordine) *is ſent from* Genoa. *And they live the moſt happy (in point of Government, for their Land is Rocky and Barren) of all Subjects; being alſo moſt Faithful and Obedient to their mild, temperate, and indulgent Lords.*

17. In every Hundred there is a Court of Conſcience, held by two Stewards, for Debts not above Five Pound, and for all Servants and Labourers Wages. But with an Appeal to the *Hundred Court*.

18. The Warden and Aſſociates, aſſiſted by the Recorder, hold the Hundred Court every fortnight, for all Cauſes (both in Law and Equity) above five Pound and not above fifty Pound. Alſo they hear all Civil Law-matters,

ters, and prove Wills or grant Administrations, to the same Value. But under the Correction of the County Court, by Error or Appeal. All Causes at Common Law are tryed by *Jury*.

19. The Wardens place is ten Pound a Year, for every Thousand Pound of the yearly Value of the *Hunared*. Each Associate hath half so much, and the Recorder likewise. So that if this yearly Value be twenty thousand Pound, The Warden hath two Hundred Pound *per Annum*, and each Associate and the Recorder, hath one Hundred Pound. Each of the Stewards of the Court of Conscience hath half so much Salary as the Recorder: and they are biennial.

20. Also every Hundred hath a Dean (and there are no Deans besides); who is likewise Rector or Minister of the Hundred-Town, or the Chief Parish in it. He is elected or presented by the Assembly, and his Place or Pension, as Dean, is equal to the Wardens. But the Bishop is Dean of the Shire-City, which is a distinct Hundred of it self.

21. Also the Assembly of each Hundred doth elect Delegates, to represent the Hundred in the Council of the County, or the Shire-Council. Their number holds proportion with the Benchers (which Benchers may be Delegates also); that is, there is a Delegate for every Thousand Pound *per Annum*, which the Hundred is in Value. If therefore (as was said before) the Rent, or yearly Value of the hundred be twenty thousand Pound, these Delegates are twenty. They are in Triennial Rotation; a third part, (or as near it as may be) going off, and being by the Assembly new chosen yearly.

III.

III. Counties.

22. About ten ſuch Hundreds as are before deſcribed, make a County: which is a great and ſplendid Corporation, governed by a Lord-Steward, four Lord-Adjutants, a Shire-Senate, and a Shire-Councel.

23. To the Shire-Councel the ſeveral Hundreds ſend their Delegates in the proportions before expreſs'd, that is, one Member for every Thouſand Pound *per Annum*. So that if the yearly Revenue of the whole County be two Thouſand Pound, theſe Delegates or Shire-Councellors are two Hundred. And (as hath been ſaid) they are Succeſſive and Triennial.

24. There are alſo ſtanding Councellors, or for Life: who are a full third part of the number of the Succeſſive. They have the Title and Dignity of Knights: being the *Equeſtris Ordo* of the Nation. Thoſe that were Knights under Kingſhip, were made of this Order in the firſt place.

25. The void places of theſe Knights are fill'd up, partly by Election of the whole Council; and partly by Sale, the Money being employ'd to the publick Uſes of the County.

Note, *That where Places are ſold, they are Places in the Popular Councels, who barely give their Votes without debating: And not ſuch Places, as require Perſonal Abilities and Qualifications.*

26. Beſide theſe Triennial Councellors, and Councellors for Life, there is yet a third ſort which is Hereditary: and they are called Knights-Baronets. Who are as it were the Peerage of their reſpective Counties. Thoſe therefore who were Baronets under Kingſhip, are ſo likewiſe in the Free

Free State. And ſo many are added (out of the beſt and richeſt Families, and the moſt deſerving Men) as make them half the number of the Knights. Thus if the immediate Repreſentatives (or Delegates) be two Hundred, the Knights are ſixty ſeven, and the Baronets thirty three; the Knights and Baronets together being one Hundred, or half the Number of the Delegates. And the whole Shire-Councel is three Hundred.

27. By the Shire-Council is elected the Shire Senate, or Court of Aldermen for the County. Their Number is a fifth part of the Delegates, or one Man for every five Thouſand Pound *per Annum*, the County is in Value. So that if theſe Delegates be two Hundred, and this Value be two Hundred Thouſand Pound, the Number of the Senators is forty. And the Power is here divided between the Senate and the Shire-Councel; in the ſame manner as it is divided in the Hundred, between the Bench and Aſſembly.

28. Half of them are Triennial, a third part of this half going off yearly: the other half are for Life. And all of them are Juſtices of Peace for the whole County. Moreover, every Baronet and Knight is a Bencher in his Hundred, and a Veſtry-man in his Pariſh.

29. The Chief Magiſtrates of the County are, the Lord Steward, and four Lords Adjutants. Whereof the Steward is appointed by the Grand Councel of the Nation; but the Adjutants (and all other Officers of the County) are choſen by the Shire Councel. The Steward and Adjutants are in Triennial Rotation; the Steward being appointed one year, two Adjutants choſen another year, and as many the third year.

30. The Lord Steward and his four Adjutants, aſſiſted by a Serjeant at Law, hold the County-Court every four Weeks, and ſit every Morning till all the Buſineſs be diſpatch'd. Here all Cauſes both of Law and Equity are tri-

ed

ed and heard, that are above fifty Pound, and not above five Hundred. Which nevertheless may be carried by Appeal or Error to the Provincial Court. But causes brought hither by Error or Appeal from the Hundred Courts, are here determin'd finally.

31. Also the Lord Steward and Adjutants, assisted by an Official (who is Doctor of the Civil Law) do prove Wills, and grant Administrations, where the Estates of the Deceased are between fifty and five Hundred Pound. They also hear and judge, in the first Instance, all Civil Law Causes to that Value.

32. The Salary or Allowance of the Lord Steward, is three Pound yearly, for every Thousand Pound which the County is in Value: and each Lord Adjutant hath half so much. So that if the assess'd Value of the whole County be two hundred thousand Pound a year, the Lord Steward hath six hundred Pound yearly, and each Lord Adjutant hath three Hundred. And the Shire Serjeant the like.

33. In every County there is a Lord Bishop, assisted by two Suffragans, and in greater things by a Synod. Of which Synod the Deans are the constant Members: beside a like number of other Clergy-men, annually chosen by the Clergy of the Diocess or County.

34. The Bishop, for his Maintenance or Allowance, hath the same as the Steward: and each Suffragan hath a third part, the Official having the like. The Suffragans are Biennial: and are elected (out of the Deans) by the Shire-Council. But the Bishop is appointed by the Grand Council of the Nation. Moreover the Shire-Council Elects the Chief Magistrate of the Shire-City: whose Salary or Allowance is equal to a Suffragan's.

35. Every County doth (by its Shire-Council) elect Representatives for the Grand Council of the Nation. That is, one Man for every twenty Thousand Pound a year.

which the County is in Value, or the tenth part of the Number of their Knights. If therefore this Value be two hundred Thousand Pound yearly, and their Knights a Hundred in Number, these Representatives are Ten.

The County here described is about the Bigness or Value of an ordinary English *County. And all* Noland *doth make about Sixty such Counties: Its whole Revenue (real and personal) being about twelve Millions. Most of the Counties continue as they were under Kingship, or with some small Alterations. But in one Mountainous part, Thirteen Counties do now make but Four: and those not of the full middle Value. Seven or Eight great ones are divided into two a piece, and one very great one into four.*

IV. Free Cities and Boroughs.

36. BEside these Counties at large, there are Cities and Counties, and also Towns and Counties. The former of these are called Free Cities; the latter are called Boroughs. These, for the Encouragement of Trade, are govern'd by the Tradesmen that live in them; as the other Cities and Towns, that depend upon the Gentry, are by Them govern'd. They are Corporations, as most of them were before; but such Corporations, as have as near a resemblance as may be, to the Corporations or Communities here before described. And more particularly, every thing in them doth bear a proportion to the assess'd Value of the Place, and of the Peoples real and personal Estates.

37. As the Shire-Cities are placed near the middle of the Shires or Counties, and the Hundred-Towns near the middle of the Hundreds; so these trading Cities and Towns are sprinkled (for the most part) upon the Borders

of

of the Counties. And as thoſe depend upon Retailing; ſo Manufactures, and the Wholeſale and Foreign Trade, are chiefly managed by theſe.

Thirty or Forty Free Cities, and about twice as many Boroughs, are thought ſufficient for all Noland. *Nor can they well be leſs, conſidering how many Port-Towns muſt be of this number. The difference between theſe Cities and Boroughs is only Nominal and Titular; their real Priviledges being the ſame. Only the Cities are greater; and as a Borough hath a Mayor, ſo a Free City hath a Lord Mayor. Each of them hath a Court of Conſcience, a Hundred Court, and a County Court: with an Appeal to the Provincial Court. And in each of them is a Dean, who is under the immediate Juriſdiction of the Arch-Biſhop of the Province.*

38. Out of the Cuſtomes and Exciſes, the State allows to the Cities and Boroughs a Hundred Thouſand Pound a year, toward the Support of their Government, the decent Maintenance of their Magiſtrates and Officers, and the carrying on their Trade. Which Allowance is diſtributed amongſt them (as the Places want and deſerve it) by the Council of Trade, with the Approbation of the Grand Council.

39. All the Free Cities and Boroughs of each Province, together with the Capital City, make the particular Dioceſs of the Arch-Biſhop. And all the Free Cities and Boroughs of each Province, with the Capital City and Shire Cities, make one County, as to the electing Repreſentatives for the Grand Council of the Nation. To which they ſend a Repreſentative, for every twenty Thouſand Pound Rent, or yearly Income which they contain. Theſe are diſtributed diſtinctly, as far as the yearly Value of each

Place will reach an entire Representative: And afterward they joyn with one another, as before is ſaid of Pariſhes. But the Great *Lariſſa* (ſo the Metropolis of the Nation is called) is not only a County at large in all reſpects, but alſo a Province of it ſelf.

V. Provincial Courts, and the High Court of Appeals.

40. WHereas mention hath been made of *Provinces* and *Provincial Courts*, it is to be underſtood, that for the convenient diſtribution of Law and Juſtice, the whole Country of *Noland* is divided into five *Provinces*, or *Circles*, or great *Counties Palatine*. That wretched, ſcambling, chargeable and vexatious way of *Terms* and *Circuits*, which they had formerly in imitation of *England*, being now caſt off.

41. In the Capital City of each Province, is fixt a Preſidial or Provincial Court, held by a Lord Chief Preſident, and ſix other Lords Preſidents. Theſe are aſſiſted by two ſerjeants at Law, who are ſtiled Lords Aſſiſtants.

Each Lord Preſident hath for Salary ſix Pound a Year, for every twenty Thouſand Pound of the Province aſſeſs'd yearly Value, or for every Knight which the Province ſends to the Grand Council. Each Serjeant or Lord Aſſiſtant hath as much; and the Lord Chief Preſident a third part more. So that if this yearly Value be two Millions, and the Knights be a Hundred; each Preſident and Aſſiſtant hath ſix Hundred Pound per Annum, *and the Chief Preſident nine Hundred.*

42. They finally determine all Writs of Errors, and Appeals in Equity, from the County Courts: and they try and hear in the firſt Inſtance, all Cauſes above the Value of five Hundred Pound.

43. There

43. There is alſo a Provincial Court for Civil Law-Matters. It is called the Court of Audience: and it is held by the ſame Lords Preſidents, aſſiſted by two Doctors of that Law, or Lord Aſſeſſors. Theſe receive Appeals from the Counties: and they hear Cauſes in the firſt Inſtance, and prove Wills, above five Hundred Pound Value.

44. In Cauſes of the firſt Inſtance, both theſe Courts are under the Correction and Controul of the High Court of Appeals, fix'd at the *Great Lariſſa*. The Lords of Appeal are four and twenty in Number: that is, twelve Peers or Earls, and twelve Commoners. They are choſen by the Grand Council, and are in Triennial Rotation: and they are aſſiſted (as the Caſe requires) by ſix Serjeants at Law, or by four Civilian Doctors. Moreover they hear nothing in the firſt Inſtance; and only rectify the Errors of the Provincial Courts, or receive Appeals from them.

45. After a Judgment here, the Cauſe may be reviewed by the ſame High Court. Or if it be extraordinary, it may be brought (the Grand Senate conſenting) before the Grand Council it ſelf, there to be concluded and ſettled by the whole ſupreme Legiſlative Power.

The moſt Excellent Ariſtæus, *intended at firſt, that the Provinces ſhould be only a bare Diviſion of the Country, for the Adminiſtration of Law; and for ſome other purpoſes: And not to be Corporations to any Intent. For Corporations muſt have Liberties, which are Powers in effect: And he was not willing that his State ſhould have ſuch great Members with Power: leſt they ſhould prove ungovernable and dangerous. Many little ones are eaſier Ruled, than a few great ones. It was therefore his deſign, that the Grand Council ſhould nominate all the Members of the Provintial Court: As alſo all the General Officers of the Militia and ſtanding Forces*

Forces of the Province; that is, Lord Marshal, Lieutenant General, Major General, &c. Together with Commissioners of the Treasury and Revenue of the Province: And under them, Commissioners of the Customes, and of the Excises. But he afterward consider'd, that in this way the Provinces, tho the Nation be free of which they are the Parts; and tho the Counties and Hundreds, into which they are divided, be free likewise; yet their Condition as Provinces would be Slavish. For to have Magistrates Imposed (like so many Bashaws) by higher Powers, and not Elected by the People they Govern, is a Mark and Badge of Servitude. But then again on the other hand, the Choice of these great Magistrates and Officers is of so great Importance, that it requires the Care of the Supreme Power. Wherefore the Excellent Legislator did finally resolve, that in this, as in other things, a middle way should be taken: and that these great Officers and Magistrates should be chosen, partly by the Grand Council, and partly by the Provinces. These being made Communities or Corporations to enable them to do it. And therefore,

46. Every Province hath a Convention, Elected by the several Counties contain'd in it. Each County, when they have chosen their Knights for the Grand Council of the Nation, chooſing as many for the Convention of the Province. So that if the yearly Value of the Province be (as before is computed) two Millions, the Knights of the Convention will be a Hundred in Number.

47. They are all in a triennial Rotation: and the main of their Business is, to Elect the Provincial Magistrates and Officers, or to joyn with the Grand Council in those Elections. Thus they Elect three of the seven Presidents of the Provincial Court: who are in Rotation. And they Elect one of the two Assistants, and one of the two Assessors: who are for Life.

48. They

48. They alſo Elect two of the five Treaſurers of the Province: the Chief and two more being appointed by the Grand Council. Theſe five are in triennial Rotation: the Chief is choſen by the Grand Council one year: another by the Grand Council, and one by the Convention, the ſecond year: another by the Grand Council, and one by the Convention, the third year.

49. The Lord Chief Treaſurer hath a Salary equal to that of a Chief Preſident: the others have a third part leſs. So that if the Province be two Millions in yearly Value, the Chief hath Nine Hundred Pound a year, and the others ſix Hundred. They are under the Inſpection and Governance, of the High Treaſurers General at *Lariſſa*: and theſe under the Grand Senate.

The Legiſlator judg'd it a great Evil in the Late Government, that all the Law-Buſineſs of the whole Nation was then brought to one Place. And that all the Money of the Nation was alſo then brought tooxe Place, that is, the whole Publick Revenue; he judg'd a great Evil likewiſe. To both theſe Evils he hath now given a Remedy. He hath ſhar'd out the Law-Buſineſs, by Erecting the Provincial Courts, as before is ſaid: And he hath ſhar'd out the Money Buſineſs, by fixing in every Province a Treaſury, or a Receipt of Exchequer. Which laſt thing is not ſo great a Charge as ſome may imagine. For the Treaſurer or Treaſurers under Kingſhip, when there was but one Exchequer, had uſually eight Thouſand Pound Salary. And the other Offices of the Exchequer, were vaſtly and unreaſonably great. Every Tellers Place was worth near two Thouſand Pound a year: The Auditor had more than twice as much; as likewiſe the Secretary of the Treaſury, and Clerk of the Pells. And the other Officers proportionable. The Profit of which Places, being divided amongſt the

the Provincial Treasuries, doth handsomely maintain them all, so that the Publick Revenue is received and issued, at as little Charge as formerly. And tho the Charge were greater, yet the Nation might well bear it; in regard the Countries have so great Benefit and Advantage by this Alteration.

50. As to the Officers under the Treasury, that is, the Commissioners of the Customes and Excise, *&c.* The Convention chooses the Major part of the whole, that is to say, three of the five, or four of the seven; and the Grand Council chooses the rest, one of which is to be Chief.

51. Of the General Military Officers of the Provinces, the Lords Marshals are appointed by the Grand Council, in regard of their great Trust and Dignity: and likewise the Major Generals, in regard their Charge requires the ablest Commanders of the Nation. All the other General Officers are chosen by the Convention.

52. The Knights of the Convention have ten Shillings *per* Day, for every day they attend at the Capital City, upon the Business of the Province, together with their Travelling Charges; that is, one Shilling *per* Mile, half for coming, and half for going back. The Miles are reckon'd by the distance of their Shire City from the Capital. All which amounts to no great matter, their Sittings being few and short. They have also a Gratuity of ten Pound each, at the end of each year.

53. Moreover the Convention hath Power to lay Taxes, with the approbation of the Grand Senate, for the Uses of the Province. They also inspect the General Musters. For all the Militia's and standing Forces of each Province, do every year, or every two or three years, (as the Grand Senate doth Order) Muster and Incamp, at or near the Capital. Where they perform all Military Exercises and Duties, as a Compleat Army.

54. The

54. The Lord Marſhal, with the Lieutenant General and Major General, doth upon occaſions hold a Court of Honour. Aſſiſted by the Chief Preſident and the two Eldeſt Preſidents, and by the Chief Treaſurer.

55. The Convention chooſe the Chief Magiſtrate of the Capital, the whole Province having ſo great an Intereſt in that City. Alſo they chooſe Curators of the high ways of the Province: and Curators of the Poor of the Province. They likewiſe chooſe Chamberlains or Treaſurers, to receive and iſſue the particular Moneys of the Province; with divers other Officers.

56. The Chief Preſident of the Provincial Court preſides in the Convention: with the ſix other Preſidents, the five Lords of the Treaſury, and the three higheſt Military Officers. They are a part of it: and they keep it to Orders; and they Convoke and Prorogue it as they ſee occaſion, and according to the directions of the Grand Senate.

A Capital City of a Province (or a Canton of it containing a few Pariſhes) is likewiſe a Shire City for the Country near adjacent: and one Pariſh of it is, for the Country next adjacent, a Hundred Town. It is alſo the Reſidence of a Lord Marſhal, with other his high Officers: of the Biſhop of the Dioceſs, and of the Arch Biſhop of the Province. And it is the Meeting place of the Convention. Alſo it hath a Provincial or Preſidial Court, and a Treaſury or Receipt of Exchequer; which are two mighty Advantages. Moreover it hath an Heralds Office, and a Poſt Office for the Province. And it hath Printing Preſſes, a Theater, a Mint, and a Bank. By all which Helps, theſe Capitals are grown to be mighty Cities. And the People of the Nation have ſo many Centers of Buſineſs: which the Legiſlator judg'd better, then to have

the Buſineſs too much divided and ſcatter'd. But on the other ſide, that one Place ſhould ſwallow all the Buſineſs of the whole Nation, as it did under Kingſhip, he thought intolerable.

VI. The Grand Council of Noland.

57. TO the Grand Council, all the Counties of *Noland* ſend their Repreſentatives, according to the proportions before expreſs'd: that is one Man for every twenty Thouſand Pound Rent. So that if the Rent or yearly Value of *Noland* be twelve Millions, theſe Repreſentatives muſt be Six hundred. They are Triennial: a third part going off every Year, and as many (either the ſame or others) being new choſen in their places. If therefore a County ſend ten Men, three go off one Year, three another Year, and four the third. And they are called, Knights of the Grand Council.

58. Beſide thoſe that are Triennially choſen, there are others for Life, of equal number with the former. Theſe have (for Life) the Title and Dignity of Barons. And the Members of the Houſe of Commons, then in being when the Revolution happened, were made Barons of the Grand Council in the firſt place. The number wanting (which was about a hundred) being fill'd up, half by Election, and the other half by Sale. Alſo the places of the Barons, as they become Vacant by Death, are ſupplied, partly by Election of the Grand Councel, out of thoſe that are or have been of it, and partly by Sale for the publick Uſes of the Nation. That is, for publick Works.

59. Thus part of the Grand Council is Succeſſive and Triennial, and part for Life. But beſide all theſe, there are others that are Hereditary: who are ſtiled *Counts* or *Earls*. They

They are half the number of the Barons: ſo that if the Barons be ſix hundred, the Earls are three hundred. In this high Order and Degree, all that were Peers under Kingſhip were put in the firſt place. The number wanting being fill'd up, partly by Election out of the Barons; and partly by Sale, the Perſons being approved by the Grand Council.

The Peers did readily acquieſce in the Condition, wherein the Legiſlator had put them: it being much the ſame as formerly. But the Members of the Houſe of Commons, who were continued for Life and made Barons; did at firſt make a great ſcruple, and modeſtly declin'd their Advancement. They fear'd it would ſeem too ſelfiſh, being by their own Conſent and Concurrence; and that it would likewiſe be too Invidious. But the Excellent Ariſtæus *told them, that the thing was neceſſary; in regard it would make a preſent Settlement, which could not be deferr'd without great Inconvenience and Danger. That no Men of reaſon could grudge or think much, that the Authors or Coadjutors of ſo great a Good to the Nation, ſhould have ſome reward: Or at leaſt make uſe of their favourable chance of being then Parliament Men. That whereas the Barons ought to be Elected by the Nation, or by their Truſtees; the preſent Members had been Elected by the Nation already, in the old way. That a good Number would be ſoon added to them, Elected the new way; and more and more every year, as the old ones wear out. So that here is no Excluſion; only the Places are fill'd up at preſent, their future Vacancies lying open to new Elections. With theſe Reaſons* Ariſtæus *prevail'd with the preſent Members, to accept of their new Dignity: not only to the Content, but likewiſe with the Applauſe, of the whole Nation.*

That which was done in Noland *upon this occaſion, was a ſmall matter; in compariſon of what the* Venetians *did, when they brought their Republick to the Form it is now in. Their Grand [illegible], or Governing Power, had been Elected annually by the People. But about four hundred years ago, a Grand Council ſo Elected, took a Reſolution to perpetuate themſelves. And they aid it to ſome purpoſe. For they Decreed and Ordained; That all the preſent Members of the Grand Council, or that had been of it within four years before, ſhould in all after-times be the Grand Council, without further Election; To them and all their Poſterity, Excluding all others. This cauſed bloody Contentions; but the Uſurpers in fine made good their Uſurpation. And they continue it to this day. So that by this means, the Nobles or Gentlemen of* Venice, *(who are the Deſcendants of the firſt Uſurpers) have engroſs'd the whole Power to themſelves, and the People have loſt their Liberty.*

A brief Account of this matter is in Briet's *Geography.* Monſieur Amelot *treats of it more at large in his accurate Deſcription of the* Venetian *Republick. But the thing is moſt clearly made out in a curious Treatiſe which we have in* French, *(but it was firſt written in* Italian) *Intituled,* Examen de la Liberte originaire de Veniſe.

But it is hardly poſſible that the Grand Council of Noland *ſhould perpetuate themſelves; ſo as to Engroſs the whole Power, and Exclude the reſt of the Nation. For beſide that the whole Nation would never endure it (who cannot be ſo eaſily Impoſed upon as the City of* Venice); *they would find inſuperable Difficulties within themſelves. This Council hath three Parts; Peers, Barons, and Knights. The Peers are Hereditary, the Barons for Life, and the Knights in rotation. And if any of theſe three ſhould*

should desire more Priviledge then they have, the other two will never consent. As for the Peers, they have nothing to desire: being already as high as they can be. But if the Barons should desire to be Hereditary, the Peers and Knights will oppose it. The Peers, because they would not have others made their Equals, nor their own high Priviledge made common: the Knights, because they would not Exalt the Barons too much above themselves, nor lose the hopes of coming into their Dead Vacancies. Again, if the Knights should desire to be permanent, the Peers and Barons will oppose it. For the Peers will not like, that the Knights should approach so near them, much less will the Barons like, that they should be made their Equals. We may therefore conclude; That where a Soverain Assembly is all in rotation or temporary, they may be both able and willing to perpetuate themselves, and to engross and exclude: But where it is partly in rotation and partly permanent, there is no such danger.

60. Every Arch-Bishop and Bishop is a constant Member of the Grand Council. And every constant Member of the Grand Council, is likewise a Member (Supernumerary) of the Shire Council, in the place of his Residence.

If therefore the yearly Value of Noland *be twelve Millions; and if it contain sixty Counties, whereof five here Arch-Bishops, and the rest Bishops; the Grand Council must consist of six hundred Knights, six hundred Barons, and three hundred Earls: and the Arch-Bishops and Bishops must be sixty. In all, Fifteen hundred and sixty.*

61. By this Council the whole Nation is represented, and in it resides the Supreme Legislative Power. But it is incapable of Debate, and only resolves and determines what

what hath been debated and prepared, and is propoſed, by the Grand Senate or Parliament. Which Senate is choſen by and out of the Grand Council, and is a part of it. To this Council alſo belongs the Election of all the Chief Officers and Magiſtrates, the Judging and Puniſhing of great Offences againſt the State, and the laſt Reſort in all Cauſes.

62. Every Member of the Grand Council hath a conſtant Fee or Salary of one hundred Pound a Year: beſide forty ſhillings Weekly during his Attendance. He may make a Proxy, upon Abſence, to any Perſon of his own Order: the Orders being four, that is, Earls, Biſhops, Barons, and Knights. But no Man muſt have above two Proxies.

VII. The Grand Senate or Parliament.

63. THE number of this Senate, is half the Number of the Peers or Earls: So that if the Peers be three hundred, the Senate muſt be one hundred and fifty. A third part of them are taken out of the Peers, and two thirds out of the Commoners. Of which two thirds, a fifth part is out of the Knights of the Grand Council, (that are, or have been); and the reſt out of the Barons. If therefore one hundred and fifty be the Number of the Senate; fifty of them are choſen out of the Peers, and a hundred out of the Commoners: and of theſe hundred, eighty are out of the Barons, and twenty out of the Knights.

64. The Senators choſen out of the Earls and Barons, are half of them in triennial Rotation, and the other half for Life. But thoſe that are out of the Knights, are all choſen annually.

The

The Legislator intended at first, that all the Commoner-Senators should be chosen out of the Barons, and none out of the Knights. For since, in a well-order'd State, Men should rise by degrees, (by steps and not by leaps); he thought the Barons Station to be a convenient step or Degree, between a Knight of the Grand Council and a Senator. And the People would not hereby be excluded from the Senate. For the Barons, being Commoners, are part of the People: and they are likewise the Peoples Representatives, tho not immediate. But afterward he thought it best, that for the Peoples Satisfaction, some of their immediate Representatives should have place in the Senate. And accordingly, twenty of the temporary Senators are taken out of the Knights of the Grand Council. But these cannot be in triennial Rotation, as the others are; because their time in the Grand Council will or may expire sooner. And therefore they are chosen annually.

65. The Knights of the Grand Council that are Elected into the Senate, continue Knights still, without other Title: only they gain Precedency during their Lives, before all other Knights and Baronets. Also the Barons so Elected continue Barons: with a Precedency before all other Barons, and a Capability to be chosen Senators for Life. But the Barons that are made Senators for Life, have during their Lives the Title of Vicounts. So that of the Commoner-Senators, twenty are Knights and annual, forty are Barons and triennial, and forty more are Vicounts and for Life.

66. The Peers or Earls that are Elected into the Senate, are thereby for their Lives made Marquesses; and they are capable to be Elected Senators for Life, as those places become vacant. The Marquels-Senators are five and twenty in Number,

Number, beſide thoſe that have been formerly of the Senate. And thoſe in Service are in triennial Rotation: eight being choſen one year, eight another year, and nine the third year.

67. Out of the Marqueſs-Senators, that is, out of thoſe Peers that are or have been of the Senate, are Elected the Peer Senators for Life: who are likewiſe about five and twenty in Number, and are Dukes for their Lives. To which Senator-Dukes, who come in by Election, a like number is added of Titular-Dukes: whoſe Vacancies (they being alſo for Life) are ſupplied by Sale to any of the Peers. Theſe, beſide their bare Title, have likewiſe a Capability of being Elected into thoſe moſt Sublime Offices and Honours, which will anon be mention'd: that is, Regent and Palatines. And hereby there will be better and greater Choice in the Election of thoſe High Officers. Moreover theſe Sales muſt be confirm'd (that is, the Perſons approved) by the Grand Council; and a Sale is held confirm'd, unleſs two thirds diſagree.

68. The Grand Senate hath all the Authorities, that belong to the Supreme Executive Power. They are alſo a great part of the Legiſlative: Since they prepare Matters for the Grand Council, and are themſelves of it. Part of their Buſineſs is diſtributed to ſeveral Councils and Committees, and part is reſerved to the whole Senate. And the whole State is under their Care.

69. Of theſe Councils and Committees one third part are Peers, and two thirds are Commoners: a Peer being always Preſident or Chief, with a Caſting Voice. They are all in triennial Rotation, the ſame Men being capable to be choſen again.

70. Every Senator hath double the Allowance of an ordinary Member of the Grand Council: that is, he hath two hundred Pound a Year, and four Pound a Week for every

every Week he attends. Alſo each Member of the Councils and Committees hath a further Increaſe of Salary, according to the Dignity of the Council; and likewiſe to the Labour required, and the Attendance he gives.

71. There are alſo ſeveral great Officers and Magiſtrates: ſuch as become the Grandeur of ſo Illuſtrious a State. And the Chief Magiſtrate of all hath the Title of Regent. The Legiſlator thought at firſt, to give him the Title of Protector: Which Word is alſo of a good ſignification and ſound, and no ſtranger to the Laws and Hiſtory of *Noland*. But it hath been diſgraced by a Villanous Uſurper, who took upon him that Title.

72. The Regent is aſſiſted by ſix Palatines: whereof four are Princes, and two are Counts. All of them together make the Signiory: who much reſemble the Signiory of *Venice*. For as they have the ſame Name and Number, ſo their Authorities are much alike. A particular account whereof, with an account likewiſe of the other Great Officers and Magiſtrates, will be given in due time.

73. This Signiory is in triennial Rotation. The Regent being choſen one year; two Princes Palatine and a Count Palatine the ſecond year; and two Princes and a Count the third year.

74. The Regent and the four Prince Palatines are Elected out of the Dukes. The two Count Palatines are Elected out of the Vicounts, or the Commoners that are Senators for Life. They that have been Prince Palatines, are Princes during their Lives: But he that hath been Regent, is during his Life a Prince Royal.

75. As for the Count Palatines, they have for their Lives the Title of Counts or Earls. But they ſtill continue Commoners: being not unlike the Lords here in *England* that have *Iriſh* Titles. To them are added forty more, who are likewiſe made Earls for Life: the void

places being diſpoſed by Sale, to any of the Vicounts, or Barons.

76. All that were Marqueſſes or Dukes under Kingſhip, retain the Titles and Precedency to them and their Heirs. But in point of Authority, they are but as other Earls or Peers.

VIII. The Kingdoms of Calydon and Juvern, with the Colonies.

77. UNder the Kings of *Noland* were two other Kingdoms; the one called *Calydon*, and the other *Juvern*. The later of theſe was a Kingdom ſubordinate to *Noland*: but the former was wholly independent, and under different Laws. Theſe two Kingdoms were eaſily prevail'd with, to joyn with *Noland* in the ſame Free State. They do therefore ſend their Repreſentatives (or Knights) to the Grand Council at *Lariſſa*, in the proportions before expreſs'd. According to whoſe Number they have their Barons there alſo: and likewiſe their Earls, their former Nobility being taken in in the firſt place. The Value of both thoſe Kingdoms is about three Millions yearly: that is, about a fourth part of *Noland*. And ſo they add to the Grand Council, about a hundred and fifty Knights, as many Barons, and ſeventy odd Earls: beſide Biſhops. And they add about fifty Senators to the Senate.

78. *Calydon* doth make two Provinces, and *Juvern* three: but much under the Value of thoſe in *Noland*, by reaſon of the low price of Land in both thoſe Places. The Courts of theſe Provinces (or the Provincial Courts) cannot well be regulated by the High Court of Appeals at *Lariſſa*, by reaſon of the great diſtance. And therefore ſuch a High Court is ſettled in each Kingdom: the Judges (or Members of it) being ſent and ſupplied by and from the Grand

Grand Council. Theſe, with other great Officers ſent by the Grand Council likewiſe, make a Council of State, and govern each Kingdom under the Orders of the Grand Senate. But all the great Officers thus ſent to *Calydon*, muſt be out of their own Members of the Grand Council.

This Change in the Diſtribution of Law in Calydon, *doth not hinder, but that their Laws may continue the ſame. And the ſame they do continue. Being not to be alter'd, without the particular Conſent of their own Grand Councellors; who in this matter have a Negative upon the reſt.*

79. All the Colonies of *Noland* in the ſeveral Parts of the World (and theſe are more than ſome may imagine) have their Repreſentatives, *&c.* in this Grand Council. So that according to their aſſeſs'd Value, and the ſhare they bear of Taxes, they have here a proportionable number of Knights, Barons, Earls, and Senators. The Colonies do now increaſe more than ever: and are like to become a fourth great Member of the State.

IN this Government (according to the Legiſlators Rule) all Publick Offices and Employments are made beneficial and deſirable. And according to his Rule likewiſe, their number is not ſparing. So that here is ample encouragement for Men of Parts, Induſtry, and Virtue: which in a Free State are the Qualifications of riſing Men. And to give due Preferments to Men ſo qualified, is a principal deſign of this Government. Many of theſe Offices are mention'd above: with the Salaries belonging to them. And where no Salaries are expreſs'd, it is to be underſtood that they have convenient Salaries. To defray all this Charge, a great and a large Sum is requiſite: for the raiſing

ſing whereof they have ſeveral ways and means. Some of which do here follow.

Firſt, The whole Nation have cheerfully conſented, to ſettle a Subſtantial Fund, towards the maintaining their Officers in the firſt place. The Legiſlator, as above is ſaid, judging it requiſite and neceſſary; and having told them before hand (as above is ſaid alſo) that they muſt be content to be at ſome Expence, to maintain their glorious Liberty in due manner. But having added withal, that this Expence they would have back among themſelves, by the Employments which this Government would give them.

Secondly, All the Eccleſiaſtical Officers are maintained by the Church Revenues. Which in former times had been poſſeſs'd by their Idolatrous Prieſts, were ſettled afterwards upon the Chriſtian Clergy, and are now continued without any Diminution.

Thirdly, In all places that have an apparent Advantage by this Government, the Government (for its Support, and particularly towards maintaining its Officers) hath a ſhare in the Advantage. This Advantage is ſomething in the Hundred Towns, in the Shire Cities is very conſiderable, and much more in the Capitals of Provinces. It is therefore duly enquired and found by Commiſſion, what is the Advance of Houſes or Lands in or near thoſe places, by reaſon of the Buſineſs now fix'd in them. And the one half of this Advance is paid to the Publick, as a conſtant Rent. So that if a Houſe, or parcel of Land be better by ten Pound a year than it was before, it pays five Pound a year to the Publick.

Fourthly, Whereas a main part of the Publick Revenue of *Noland*, is by Exciſes upon the Home Conſumption, (for the Cuſtoms upon Foreign Trade are light and eaſy) the places that have advantage by the Government pay greater

greater Exciſes upon that account than other places do. The Duties therefore are a little higher (and more in number) in the Hundred Towns, than in the open Country, or in the Free Cities and Boroughs: in the Shire Cities they are yet higher, they are higher yet in the Cities Provincial, and higheſt in the *Metropolis*.

Fifthly, This Government is mightily enabled to maintain its Officers and Magiſtrates, by their being freed from the vaſt Charge of a Kings Court. Which Charge being divided among the Magiſtrates and Officers, goes a great way toward maintaining them all. Even that which was ſpent formerly in meer Luxury and Vanity, and in the Vices of the Court, does now maintain many vertuous Perſons in Honourable Employments.

Sixthly, The ſeveral Courts of Law, and the Juries likewiſe, (for it is now a preferment to be a Juror) are maintain'd in great meaſure by the Fees and Perquiſites of each Court. Which charge the People may well bear, in regard of the infinite eaſe which they find and feel by the preſent Diſtribution of Law.

By theſe and ſome other ways the State is enabled, not only to maintain its own Officers, but alſo to give ample Satisfaction to thoſe that were Officers in the former Government. For it muſt be underſtood, that all that had Offices or Employments under Kingſhip, are continued in them if the Offices themſelves continue. But if the Offices ceaſe, they that had them have Penſions during their Lives, to the full value of them. It having been the Legiſlators great Care, that as all Orders and Degrees have conſiderable Advantage by this Change of Government, ſo no particular Perſons ſhould be Sufferers or Loſers by it.

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The Legiſlator hath been very mindful, as he ought, of the two Honourable Profeſſions of Divinity and Law. The Divines, or Clergy, have the whole Church Revenue ſtill amongſt them. Which maintains the Biſhops, Suffragans, and Deans, in the proportions before-mention'd; and the Overplus is diſpoſed of (either in augmenting thoſe Dignities and making them better, or in adding more Dignities to them) as the Convocation thinks fit. The Biſhopricks, 'tis true, are not ſo good as the great ones were formerly. But they are better than the former little ones, and their number is more than double. Alſo the Biſhop is likewiſe Dean of the Shire City, and hath the Fee or Salary of a Grand Councellor: (which later is a clear Addition to the Church Revenue). So that in the whole, an ordinary Biſhoprick is worth about a thouſand a Year: an Archbiſhoprick being above twice as much. And there are (in *Noland* only) about ſixty Arch-Biſhops and Biſhops, ſix-ſcore Suffragans, and ſix hundred Deans.

As to the Profeſſion of Law, it hath now plainly an advantage more than formerly. For the erecting ſo many Courts doth cauſe a great increaſe of Law-buſineſs. Which yet is no Oppreſſion to the People, in regard the Charge is ſo ſmall. A Suit at Law coſts leſs than an Arbitration Diner. But the Practicers gains, take them in general, are more than double to what they were before; and they are not at half the Expence. Alſo what they get, is with much more Eaſe and more Honour. They are now ſitting in their Chairs, and not running about like Pedlers or Carriers; as they did formerly, when Terms and Circuits were in faſhion. They were then like Rolling-ſtones, which do not eaſily gather Moſs. Moreover there are conſiderable Preferments ſtill belonging to the Profeſſion. About threeſcore Shire Serjeants, and ten times as many Recorders: beſides ten Lords Aſſiſtants to the five Provincial

vincial Courts, and ſix to the High Court of Appeals. All which Places are for Life, and have been already menti-on'd. To which it may be added, that in all the greater Courts the State hath Counſel, with Honourable Fees or Stipends. So that this Noble Profeſſion flouriſhes more than ever.

The Courts before ſpoken of do mightily enrich the Cities where they are fixt, and the Countries adjoyning. And *Lariſſa* the while ſuffers no Diminution, but grows greater than ever it was. Being taken at large, it is a Free City, a Shire City, the Capital City of a Province, and the Metropolis and Seat of Government of the Three Nations: where the Grand Senate, and the Grand Council, are in a manner always Reſident. A Free City it is, that drives a mighty Trade, both Foreign and Domeſtick; being ſeated upon a glorious River, which is alſo a moſt commodious Port or Harbour. Alſo the Province of which it is the Capital, is much greater (in value) than any of the reſt. Moreover the Law-buſineſs does not now come to it by fits and girds, as it did formerly; but holds all the year long, ſave only a Month in Harveſt, and another in the dead of Winter. And the conſtant buſineſs of a Province is more beneficial to this City, then formerly the buſineſs of all *Noland* in a ſcambling deſultory way. Tho even the whole buſineſs of *Noland* (that is, all the great Cauſes) are ſtill brought hither by Appeal. There is another Advantage which *Lariſſa* now enjoys, and that is this; By Art and Labour, but the Coſt not exceſſive, ſeveral Navigable Channels (beſide the great River) are brought to it from ſeveral parts of the Country. In which Channels (being level) Boats are led in a ſtring backward and forward. Which is a mighty convenience for Carriage, and even great numbers of People come that way to Market. It may ſafely be affirm'd, That in any place capable (for

it

it muſt not be a Bog, nor rugged Rocks, nor barren Sands;) but in any place capable that were the Center of ſuch Conveyances, a City would raiſe it ſelf from the Ground, tho there were no other Encouragement. But this is agreed by all, that the conveniency of Carriage (or *Subvectionum Commoditas*, as the *Latiniſts* word it) is one of the moſt principal things that belong to a place of Trade.

APPEN-

APPENDIX.

A Matter of very great importance remains yet to be related: And that is, the manner and methods by which this Government was ſettled, in the way it is now in. An Account hath been given already of its ſeveral Councils and Magiſtrates: and how the Places in them are ſupplied, when they become Vacant. It comes now to be ſhew'd; How thoſe Councils and Magiſtracies were Conſtituted at firſt, and how thoſe Places were firſt fill'd up.

Know then, that after that the States Aſſembled had approv'd the Form above deſcribed; the moſt excellent *Ariſtæus* gave them to underſtand, that (to put in Execution what he had deſigned, and to ſettle the Government with ſpeed) they muſt keep together as they were, for ſome time longer; as a Grand Convention, with a Ruling Council of Lords and Commons. Which time he hoped would not exceed a year.

When they had agreed to this, he preſented them (at their Deſire) with a Diviſion of *Noland* into five Provinces, (beſides *Lariſſa*) : Naming the Capital Cities. Together with a Diviſion of each Province into Counties, and each County into Hundreds: Naming the Shire Cities, and the Hundred Towns. Naming alſo the Pariſhes that were to be in each Hundred. As alſo what Places were fit to be made Boroughs or Free Cities. Which things the Late Excellent King, and the Excellent *Ariſtæus*, had been long conſidering and contriving in former time. And the conveniency of them appear'd plainly to the Eye, by the accurate Maps of that Country.

In the next place, *Ariſtæus* laid before them the laſt Aſſeſsments of the ſeveral Pariſhes. Whereby they might find the ſaid Pariſhes yearly Value, the Value of the Hundreds which they Compoſe, and the Value of the Counties that are Compoſed of thoſe Hundreds. According to which Aſſeſs'd Value, they might ſettle the Number of the Moot and Veſtry of each Pariſh, and of the Deputies they muſt ſend to the Aſſembly of the Hundred: the Number of each Aſſembly, and of the Delegates they muſt ſend to the Shire Council: the Number of each Shire Council, and of the Knights they muſt ſend to the Grand Council of the Nation and to the Convention of the Province. The Legiſlator adviſed, that (to loſe no time) the Pariſhes

riſhes and the Aſſeſments might ſtand at preſent as they were. To be made more equal with all ſpeed convenient, when the Government was fully eſtabliſht. But very ſmall Pariſhes might preſently be joyn'd to greater, or to one another.

Things being thus prepar'd, and the way thus clear'd, the States Aſſembled choſe ſix Commiſſioners for Each County: whereof three were of their own Number, and three of the ſame reſpective County. And theſe were to ſee a due Execution of the things to be there done: For which purpoſe they had particular Inſtructions and Directions. And they proceeded in this manner.

They ſent Orders to the ſeveral Pariſhes to chooſe their *Moots* and Veſtries: In the way that the Pariſhes in and about *Lariſſa* chooſe their Veſtries, or in what way they pleaſed. But according to the Number ſettled and preſcribed by the States Aſſembled.

A Pariſh *Moot* and Veſtry being choſen; the *Moot* was, within a Weeks time, to chooſe Deputies for the Aſſembly of the Hundred. Therefore at a day and hour appointed, the Rector or Miniſter, and the two Church Wardens, Seated themſelves in the Church, or other place convenient: with a Table before them, and upon it, one or more large wide-mouth'd Glaſs or Glaſſes. Then the *Moot* Men came up ſeverally; each having in

his hand a scroll, or piece of Paper roll'd up, which contain'd the Names of the Persons he Voted for: The said Names being as many in Number, as the Places that were to be fill'd up. And those Candidates that were found to have most Votes, were the Persons Elected. And so if the Deputies to be chosen were seven, the three that had the greatest Numbers of Votes, were thereby Elected triennial Deputies, or for three years: The two next to those three, were made Deputies for two years: and the two next to those five, were Deputies for one year.

The Venetians, *and some of their Neighbours, make their Elections by Ballot. But the way of our Famous Long Parliament was by Glasses. Who did more great Actions in the five years they Govern'd, than the* Venetians *have done ever since the Foundation of their State.*

The Deputies of the Assembly of the Hundred being thus Elected, a time was appointed for their Meeting in the Hundred Town. At which Meeting the Commissioners, or two of them at least, did preside. The first day was spent in receiving the Deputies, settling their Numbers, and putting their Names in an Authentick Roll or List. On the next Day they Elected the Squires, or Assembly Men for Life. That is, they Elected that half of them which is to be chosen by the Assembly: the other half (as hath been said) being to be disposed

poſed of by Sale. So that if the Number of the Squires was to be fifty, the Number now to be Elected was five and twenty. And theſe the Commiſſioners ſaw choſen by the Deputies, in the ſame manner as the Deputies had been choſen by the Pariſh *Moots*.

The other half of the Squires, or ſtanding Aſſembly Men remain'd ſtill to be fill'd up: which could not now be regularly done. For thoſe Places, by the Conſtitution, are to be ſold by the Bench, or Senate of the Hundred; and no ſuch Bench was yet in being. The Aſſembly therefore was directed by the Commiſſioners to Name a Committee forthwith, of ten or a dozen Perſons; to receive the Offers of ſuch Men, as were minded to procure the ſaid Places by being Liberal to the Hundred: and to propoſe the Names of the higheſt Bidders, to the Aſſembly at their next Meeting. Which Committee being Named, the Aſſembly was Adjourn'd for a Fortnight.

Being met again, and two at leaſt of the Commiſſioners Preſiding, there was deliver'd by the Committee, to the Commiſſioners and to each Deputy, a Liſt of the higheſt Bidders Names, with their reſpective Offers. And then the Commiſſioners cauſed their Liſt to be openly read to the Aſſembly. Which being done, they Ordered the Aſſembly to meet again next day: That they might approve or diſapprove the Perſons Named

in

in the Liſt, having had a days time to conſider of it. Alſo they gave them notice, that this was to be done by ſmall roll'd Tickets, put by the Voters into a Glaſs, as had been done already in Elections. In each of which Tickets there was to be written, only this word *Conſent*, or this word *Diſſent*. And theſe Tickets each Deputy was to bring ready with him.

The next Day the Aſſembly met, and the Commiſſioners ſate with a Table and a Glaſs before them. Then the Perſons Named in the Liſt were Propoſed ſeverally, as they ſtood in the Commiſſioners Liſt. And upon the Propoſing each Perſon, each Deputy went up to the Table, and put a Ticket into the Glaſs. Which being ſoon over, the Commiſſioners cauſed the Tickets to be open'd and number'd. And the Perſon was to be held approved, and the Sale agreed, unleſs two thirds of the Tickets did *Diſſent*.

Inſtead of the Perſons diſapproved, the Commiſſioners cauſed others to be Propoſed, by the ſame Methods that the former had been: uſing convenient ſpeed, and allowing convenient time. And if any Places remain'd yet unfill'd up, (which could be but few); they let them lye void till next year.

The Squires that were immediately Elected by the Deputies, muſt be all out of their own Number.

ber. But in the diſpoſing of the Places by Sale there was no reſtraint. Yet probably, even moſt of theſe Places, were fill'd out of the ſame Number likewiſe.

And ſo many Deputies being made Squires, their Places as Deputies became Vacant. The Pariſhes by Order of the Commiſſioners, ſpeedily ſupplied theſe Vacancies: and in the Room of ſuch of their Deputies, as had been advanced to be Squires, they choſe others; in the ſame manner as they had choſen the former.

Theſe New Deputies being admitted into the Aſſembly, and the Aſſembly being made Compleat, and two at leaſt of the Commiſſioners ſtill Preſiding; they Elected the Bench or Senate of the Hundred, firſt the half that were to be for Life, then thoſe that were to be in triennial Rotation. Alſo they Elected their Dean, the two Aſſociates for the Hundred Court, a Recorder, two Stewards of the Court of Conſcience, and other Officers. Laſtly they Elected Delegates for the Council of the County, or Shire Council; the Benchers being capable to be choſen Delegates alſo. And all theſe Elections were perform'd, in the manner and methods before deſcribed. Particularly, the Aſſembly choſe Delegates for the Shire Council, in the ſame manner as the Pariſh *Moots* had choſen Deputies for the Aſſembly.

All

All matters being thus ſettled in the Hundreds, a time was appointed for all the Delegates, choſen by the ſeveral Aſſemblies, to meet at the Shire City. And at this Meeting all the Commiſſioners did Preſide. Who having received the Delegates, and ſettled them as a Shire Council, fell preſently to the making this Council Compleat, by adding the Councellors for Life, or the Knights: who were to be half the Number of the Delegates. And herein they proceeded in the very ſame manner, as they had done in the Hundreds, when they there added the Squires to the Deputies. Only with this difference, that all that had been made Baronets or Knights in the former Government, were (by the Conſtitution) to be Knights of the Shire Council in the firſt place. The Commiſſioners therefore did forthwith admit into this Council, all the Baronets and Knights of the County. And ſuch of them as had Eſtates in ſeveral Counties, might make their Election of which County they would be. But no Man muſt be a Shire Councellor in two Counties. As likewiſe no Man muſt be an Aſſembly Man in two Hundreds, nor a *Moot* Man in two Pariſhes. Theſe Baronets and Knights being admitted; it was then ſeen, how many places in the Council remain'd yet to be fill'd up. And of this Number, half were Elected by the Council, and half diſpoſed of by Sale, in the way before related of the Squires.

When

When theſe things were done, the Commiſſioners and the whole Shire Council Elected the Shire Senate: Firſt thoſe for Life, and then thoſe in Rotation. They alſo Elected four Lords Adjutants, the two Suffragans, the Wardens of the ſeveral Hundreds, the Chief Magiſtrate of the Shire City, *&c.* As likewiſe the Shire Sergeant and Official.

Note, *That if the Shire Sergeant were not a Sergeant at Law before, he is made a Sergeant by being Elected into that Place. So likewiſe he that is choſen Official, is thereby a Doctor of Law, and the Recorders become Barriſters at Law. And they are, when they deſire it, to be formally admitted as ſuch in the Places proper.*

Laſtly the Shire Council, (the Commiſſioners Preſiding) Elect Knights for the Grand Council of the Nation, and afterward for the Convention of the Province; according to the Number Settled and Preſcribed by the States Aſſembled.

In theſe and all other Elections, to ſhorten the Work and to prevent Combinations and Intrigues, only one half of the Electors give their Suffrages, the other half being rejected by Lot. Which is ſoon done in this manner. At the Entrance of the Church, Hall, or other Room, the Electors are directed by Lot, which ſide to ſit on. When they are Seated, part on the Right ſide, and part

on the left; a Bag is set before those that Preside, and in the View of all the rest, with a Hundred Lots in it: whereof fifty are Prizes and fifty Blanks. The Prizes having the Word (Electors) *Written upon them. Then two Boys or Children draw for each side, singly and by turns, till they have drawn twenty Lots each. And that side which has the most Prizes proceeds to Election, the other side withdrawing.* [*This Rejection of half the Electors by Lot, is found (even in Places where the Ballot is most nicely practis'd) to be the most effectual Remedy against Intrigues and Combinations.*] *It breaks all the Intriguers Measures. Moreover in* Noland, *more than twenty Places are not fill'd up by one Sett of Electors. But if the Places Vacant exceed that Number, they are divided into two or more Parts, and fill'd up at several Days: The former Votes being always first cast up, and the Elections by them made being also first Publish'd; that it may be known, who have been Elected already. Let this suffice for the manner of Elections. We now return to the Course of the History, where we before left off.*

When the Commissioners had finish'd their Business in the several Counties, and were all return'd, and had given an Account of their Proceedings; the States Assembled, (or Grand Convention), Summon'd all the New Elected Knights of the Grand Council, to meet at *Larissa*: Allowing a Months time

time for it. And the Convention took that time, to put themſelves into the Form of a Regular Grand Council according to the Conſtitution. That ſo the New Repreſentatives might find all things done to their hands, that could be done. And might not come, to raiſe a Fabrick all at once from the ground; but rather to make an Addition to what was built before.

Wherefore the New Grand Council, (ſome Officers *pro tempore* having been appointed, to keep them to Orders), took their places in the Great Hall at *Lariſſa*: The Peers or Earls at the upper End, and the Barons or Commoners lower. And in the firſt place they Elected their Regent or Protector: The Perſon choſen (and that unanimouſly) being the moſt Excellent *Ariſtæus* himſelf. Who alſo was continued, by further Elections, in that High Dignity during his Life; which was many years. In the next place they Elected the reſt of the Signiory or Regency: Firſt the four Prince-Palatines out of the Peers, and then the two Count-Palatines out of the Commoners. In the third place, they Elected five and twenty of the Peers to be conſtant Senators, or Senators for Life, who were thereby made Dukes: twelve being choſen one Day, and thirteen another Day. In the fourth place, they Elected five and twenty of the Peers to be temporary Senators, or in rotation: Whereby they were made Marqueſſes for their Lives: Eight of them being choſen one day to be Senators for three years, eight more

choſen another day to be for two years, and nine upon another day to be for one year. In the ſixth place, they Elected forty of the Barons (who were thereby made Vicounts) to be Senators for Life: twenty being choſen upon one day, and twenty on another day. In the ſeventh place, they Elected forty more of the Barons to be temporary Senators, or in rotation. Wherefore thirteen were choſen one day and to continue three years, thirteen more were choſen another day and to continue two years, and fourteen on another day to be for one year.

After theſe things were done, the new Repreſentatives appear'd at *Lariſſa* at the appointed time. And being duly received, admitted, and ſettled; they took their Places in the Grand Council, below the Barons. The firſt thing they did, was to fill up the Number of the Barons. For ſix hundred was their full Number, whereas the preſent Barons (being only thoſe that had been Members of the laſt Houſe of Commons) were but about five hundred: So that about a hundred were ſtill wanting. Half of theſe places were fill'd up by Election of the Grand Council, out of the Knights of that Council. And the other half the Grand Senate were to diſpoſe of by Sale, to thoſe that would be moſt liberal to the Publick. But the Perſons and Terms to be approved by the Grand Council; that is, by that Part or Side of it, to whoſe Lot it falls to give Suffrages. For the Lot takes place in Approving, as well as in Electing. Moreover a Perſon is approved, unleſs two thirds do diſapprove.

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The next thing the Grand Council did, was to fill up the Number of the Grand Senate, by Electing twenty Senators out of their Knights. And these (as hath been related) are to be chosen annually.

The third thing to be done, was to fill up the Number of the Peers or Earls, partly by Election and partly by Sale, the old Peers not being the full Number. But this being a Matter of great weight; they would not do it all at once, but rather in four several years. Wherefore the Number wanting being a hundred and twenty, they fill'd up thirty of those Places now, and reserved the rest to the three years following. And in the same manner the Number of Baronets was fill'd up in each County. The Legislator having advised them to be chary and cautious, and not hasty, in conferring these Hereditary Honours.

The fourth thing the Grand Council now did, was to Elect the Principal Councils and Committees of the Grand Senate: The lesser being left to the Appointment of the Senate it self. Also they Elected the Lords of the High Court of Appeals, the Lords High Treasurers General, and other Great Officers of the State. Which shall be enumerated in due time. But they are not many; the Councils doing the work of them.

Having

Having done what was needful to be done among themſelves, they then provided for the Parts without. They therefore Elected Preſidents for the Provincial Courts: That is, as many of them, as the Grand Council by the Conſtitution was to Elect. Alſo they Elected Treaſurers for the ſeveral Provinces, and the General Officers of the *Militia*. And likewiſe Arch-Biſhops and Biſhops, and the Stewards of the Counties. Who all repaired to their Charges with ſpeed Convenient.

As ſoon as the Preſidents were come to their Provinces, they Summon'd the Conventions. Who immediately fill'd up the Number yet Vacant of the Preſidents, and likewiſe of the Treaſurers and Military Officers.

Thus without Noiſe or Buſtle, all the Magiſtrates were in their places, and all the Wheels were ſet a going. And the whole State was as well ſettled, as if it had ſtood a hundred years.

It is an Article in the Conſtitution; That the Members of the Grand Council, in caſe of abſence, may give a Procuracy or Proxy to Men of their own Order, to Vote for them. It ſhould have been added; That the Knights, or immediate Repreſentatives, muſt make their Proxies to Men of the ſame County, as well as of the ſame Order. The deſign of this Government being, not ſo much that ſuch and ſuch Perſons

Perſons ſhould Vote; as that every Place, and every Order of Men, ſhould have their due Number of Votes. And therefore they muſt not ſuffer in their Intereſt by the abſence of particular Perſons. Alſo the Legiſlator did conſider, that the Grand Council would be numerous: And that it would conſiſt, of the ableſt and moſt eminent Men of the Nation. He thought it therefore not fit, that they ſhould be all tyed to continual Attendance; and thereby the State be deprived of their Services elſewhere. And here he provided, that tho they were abſent in body, they might be Virtually preſent. But they muſt loſe their Weekly Allowances, their yearly Salaries being continued to them.

F I N I S.

In due time theſe Things will be added.

I. A More Particular Account of their Adminiſtration and Diſtribution of Law and Juſtice.

II. Their Splendid and Noble *Militia*: With ſome ſtanding Forces, not in the leaſt endangering the Publick Liberty.

III. Their effectual Laws and Orders for maintaining and repairing the Highways, (which formerly were the Shame, but now are the Glory of their Country); and for maintaining and employing their Poor.

With ſome other Things.